

JFK's brain

Re Doctor Covered Up JFK Autopsy Information — Aug. 3:

Much mystery has surrounded the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy in 1963. The post-mortem should have been straightforward. The brain would have shown heavy bullet damage but it would have not given any other useful information. The brain would have been removed and stored in formalin, to be dissected after a further two weeks. Somehow the entire brain was lost. Now we learn that the original pathologist burned his notes and destroyed the first draft of his report.

All of this indicates that the autopsy team found something quite unexpected. We now learn that the president had Addison's disease, but this is hardly a social stigma. Clearly the findings caused major angst, indicating that he did not have any other "socially acceptable" disease such as cancer.

From what we now know of his sexual history, it is possible that John F. Kennedy acquired syphilis in his teens, which would have been before the era of penicillin treatment. It is even possible that an autoimmune reaction to the syphilis might have resulted in the Addison's disease. The disease can remain dormant for decades in the central-nervous system, particularly the meninges (the linings around the brain). It is possible that this was evident at the time of the autopsy and would have been obvious to others as well, had not the brain gone missing.

B. Russ Reid, MD, Kamloops, B.C.

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